

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Sunday, June 19, 2016 | Holy Pentecost

Tone 7 – Eighth Sunday of Pascha! Feast of the Holy Trinity

Holy Apostle Jude, the brother of the Lord (ca. 80)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector

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Weekly Schedule – (Fast Free Week)

Today: Pentecost Vespers with kneeling service immediately after Divine Liturgy. Then after Vespers, the Annual Pentecostal Dinner with Pascha food in the church basement.

Friday: June 24 – Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist, John

Saturday: June 25 - Great Vespers at 5:00PM!

Sunday: June 26 – Sunday of All Saints!
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Sunday: June 26 – Readers Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church school room.

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 8)

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, / Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise/ by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, / and through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. // O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

Kontakion (Tone 8)

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, / He divided the nations; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. // Therefore, with one voice we glorify the All-holy Spirit.

(In Place of the Trisagion, we sing:)

As many as have been baptized into Christ, / have put on Christ. Alleluia. (3x's)

Prokeimenon (Tone 8)

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth / and their words to the ends of the universe!
v. The heavens are telling the Glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!

Epistle Reading: Acts 2:1-11

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

- v. By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made; and all their host by the Spirit of His mouth. Alleluia (3x's)
v. The Lord looks down from Heaven and beholds the sons of men. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 7:37-52; 8:12

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was? So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.

Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing? They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee." Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Instead of "It is truly meet..." , we sing:

Rejoice, O Queen! Glory of mothers and virgins! / No mouth, however sweet or fluent, / is eloquent enough to praise thee worthily! / Every mind is overawed by thy childbearing / Therefore with one voice we glorify thee!

Communion Hymn:

Let Thy good Spirit lead me forth on a level path. Alleluia (3x's)

Announcements

A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guest who worshiped with us today and who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

Addendum: Property Committee Report during Spring General Parish Meeting (June 5, 2106):

A clarification regarding the Property Committee’s report presented at the Spring General Parish Meeting and printed in last week’s church bulletin. It was reported that “all properties were found to be in good condition overall”. What this statement meant is that “structurally” the properties are in good condition. However, cosmetically, the properties are in fair condition and in need of repairs in certain areas (i.e. windows fixed or replaced; drywall repairs; carpets replaced; outlets fixed)

Summary of Property Committee Meeting from June 12:

The Property Committee met last Sunday to discuss the next steps on the properties and their status. Marlene Blaskevitch from Bershire Hathaway (and a member of St. Michael’s Russian Orthodox Church in Center City) sat in on the meeting, toured the properties, and offered her professional advice. In addition, at least two realtors have been vetted this past week to visit the properties and make their professional recommendations to the committee. Currently, one of the windows is being repaired by an outside vendor since it’s a double pane window & needs proper equipment to fix.

Statement of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon on the Orlando Shootings

The Orlando tragedy grieves us all. We grieve for those who were killed in this act of hate and terror. We ask for God’s healing power for the wounded. We pray for the families and communities of those killed and wounded, for the people of Orlando, for the people of our nation.

The federal, state, and local agencies and officials are acting to respond to the aftermath of the mass killing. We pray for them as they apply competence and collaboration to this human trauma and tragedy.

We join the many religious leaders—Christian, Jewish, and Muslim—who are raising their voices to express horror at the violence and the hatred behind the violence.

Together with many people of faith we repudiate the use of religion to justify and promote hatred and violence. While the use/misuse of Islam confronts us with a global challenge, no religion is exempt from such manipulation. We join with all those religious leaders who promote and advance respect for human life. We see in each human being the image and likeness of God. We decry hatred and violence as ultimate assaults on God’s intention and love for each man and woman.

At this time of national trauma and grief, doubt and questioning, we call on the better angels of our human nature to guide us toward sanity and sobriety, and the common ground of mutual support and love.

With Love in Christ,
+ Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Ronald Kavalkovich and Mary Herbert offered by Emelie Albrecht
Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Nina Patterson
Family, Friends, and All Travelers offered by Nancy Brasko Rabik
Kavalkovich Family offered by Pellack Family
Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Emily Gerasimoff
Mary Herbert offered by Hourahan Family
Ronald Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Paul Kavcsak offered by M/M Rich LeRoy
John and Julia Jugan and Debbie Archie offered by Pellack Family
Andrew Gerasimoff offered by Emily Gerasimoff
Christina Grimme offered by Hourahan Family
John and Julia Drimak offered by Hourahan Family

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers: Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Dolores Helms (Fr. Mark's Mother); Ronald Kavalkovich (on his recovery from surgery this week); Julia Makara; Sharon Orr; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Annamae Witiak; Father Vincent Saverino; Father John Bohush and the parishioners of Saint Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church in Philadelphia; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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2016 PARISH CALENDAR:

A computer printout version of the 2016 church calendar for the months of May and June are located on the back pew in the church. If this version is acceptable, we will continue to generate the remaining months for 2016.

Also, for those who have access to the Internet, the calendar for May and June are posted in color on the parish website for your convenience under the "Service Schedule" tab section. Thank you!

Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!

Announcements (cont.)

Sign up sheets for Coffee Hour, Cleaning and Epistle & Hours Reading. Sign up sheets for the above items are posted on the bulletin board in the church basement. Please be considerate and volunteer to assist with some of the parish responsibilities. Your time is very much appreciated!

Special weekly collections taken after Gospel or Sermon. In addition to our general collection, the parish takes a special collection each week to fund certain parish projects. Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. The special collections are as follows:

- First Sunday of every month – Kitchen Fund Project
- Second Sunday of every month – Icon Fund (2016)
- Third Sunday of every month - Restoration/Maintenance Fund
- Fourth Sunday of every month – Charity Giving

Note: if there is a Fifth Sunday during a month, the special collection is earmarked for the Kitchen Fund Project, unless otherwise noted and stated by the Parish Council.

Cash Flow Activity (June)

| | <u>Week of June 6 to June 12</u> | <u>June Month-To-Date</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Attendance: | 31 | 35 (average) |
| Funds In: | \$ 1,487.00 | \$ 2,994.00 |
| Funds Out: | \$ 248.00 | \$ 2,583.36 |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit): | \$ 1,239.00 | \$ 410.64 |

Thank you all for your continuous offerings to maintain the parish!

Shop Rite Gift Cards: If you need to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards, please see David Pellack to secure them. Your purchase of a Shop Rite Gift Card is an additional fundraising project that helps support the church at no additional expense to the purchaser.

Calendar of Events

Today - Annual Pentecost (Pascha) Dinner after Vespers in the church basement. The parish will hold its annual Pentecost Dinner with Pascha food. The dinner will be a free will offering and any monetary donations towards the dinner are always appreciated! Thank You!

Sunday, June 26 - Readers Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! All Readers are asked to attend the meeting. Father Mark, and those knowledgeable with the readings, will offer additional instructions and information regarding the readings for both the Hours and the Epistle.

Tuesday, June 28 – Vespersal Divine Liturgy for the Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul (June 29th) at 6:30PM!

On the eve of the Feast Day of The Holy Glorious and All Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Saints Peter and Paul, the parish will have Vespers and Divine Liturgy that evening starting at 6:30PM. Per discussions during the Spring General Parish Meeting last Sunday, this is being scheduled to accommodate those parishioners who are unable to attend Divine Liturgy in the morning during the weekdays due to their work schedules.

The Great and Holy Council of the Orthodox Church is to take place from June 16 thru June 27, 2016, on the island of Crete. This Council will, for the first time ever, gather representatives from all fourteen autocephalous Orthodox Churches from around the globe. There will be five topics of discussion to be covered during this time ranging from: a common calendar; adapting an ancient faith to a modern reality; regulations of fasting and marriage in a multicultural and interreligious world; role of Orthodox Church in non-Orthodox countries (often referred to as Orthodoxy in the “diaspora”); and the manner of achieving the proper canonical status of one bishop per diocese (or city) when an existing diocese currently has a number of ethnic Orthodox Churches and, therefore, more than one bishop.

Sunday, July 3 – Parish Independence Day Outdoor Picnic/Cook Out after Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall Yard! As was mentioned during the Spring General Parish Meeting, it was decided to hold an outdoor picnic/cook out on the Sunday of the Independence Day weekend (July 3). During today’s dinner and next week, please speak with either Catherine Kavalkovich and/or members of the Parish Council to discuss what items are needed for this event and what food/dishes you wish to contribute.

Sunday, July 10 – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, July 12 – Bible Study at 6:30pm in Church Basement



Holy Pentecost [June 19th]

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

This double meaning and double is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fulness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day,

the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom...

THE VESPERS OF PENTECOST

The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself. Usually this service follows immediately the Divine Liturgy, is "added" to it as its own fulfillment. The service begins as a solemn "summing up" of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. We hold flowers in our hands symbolizing the joy of the eternal spring, inaugurated by the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the Great Prokeimenon:

"Who is so great a God as our God?"

Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God. In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter "the ordinary time" of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called "after Pentecost"—and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches—for the Church "never grows old, but is always young." It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit—"the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life—comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity," and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope. *Father Alexandar Schmemmann (1974)*